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9/24/02  
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**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Group: 3754

Atty. Docket: 8266-0823

Applicants: Eckstein et al.

Invention: **HYDRAULIC CONTROL  
APPARATUS FOR A  
HOSPITAL BED**

Serial No.: 10/085,966

Filed: February 28, 2002

Examiner: Unknown

Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service's "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date written above.

Robert D. Null

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**RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement in the Office Action mailed August 19, 2002, Applicant hereby elects to prosecute the Invention identified as Invention II (as claimed in claims 21-27) without traverse. Applicant further requests amendment to the present application as set forth below.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 28-39 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add claims 40 as follows:

40. A valve assembly for a support device, including:  
a manifold having an inlet, an outlet connected to a device for positioning the support device, and a conduit in fluid communication with the inlet and the outlet;

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